

KaumanitsaunialikKuk
It Will Be Brighter Now

LCAF 2019 - JHMS, Nain

(Working a Title: No More Darkness)

Synopsis: Light, in various forms, has illuminated the literal and figurative darkness in our lives. We explore the connections between those lights and our culture while we shine a Light on some important issues.

Cast: Samantha Saksagiak - Narrator 1
Chloe Blake - Narrator 2
Dione Kohlmeister - Narrator 3
Novalee Webb - Narrator 4
Jimmy Karpik - Narrator 5

Props: table, oil lamp, 2 chairs, rocking chair, stool, Christmas tree, serving tray
Other miscellaneous props (will be provided by cast)

Music: Sad instrumental music

As the play opens, actors cross the stage from opposite directions (in the dark). The actors randomly shout words and phrases connected to the darkness (or describing their situation). Actors will also say "topics" /problems that create emotional darkness.

For example, "I need help!" , "What's the point?", "It's too dark!", "I can't find my way.", "I'm lost.", "Where's the light?" ...etc...

Black out. Sound effect for power shutting off/lights out.

Spotlight on narrator 1.

Narrator 1/Samantha

Darkness can consume us, as individuals and as a community.

We might struggle through sickness, loss, depression, grief, abuse, or addiction.

Sometimes we battle personal issues like low self-esteem.

For some of us, our families and relationships are stressful.

School feels like a dark place as we're overwhelmed and disengaged with our work at the same time.

As a community, darkness comes in other forms. We worry about food insecurity, inadequate housing, water problems and transportation issues.

It's 2019 but it feels like we've gone back in time.

We will never forget that our ancestors struggled.

Their dark days centred around their very survival.

Their light was dimmed by things like colonization, racism, relocation and residential schools.

They fumbled through the darkness and looked for the light.

They held onto the glimmers of light that illuminated their way.
Most of those came in the form of culture and tradition.

Greenish blue spotlight on stage (for Northern Lights scene).

Drumdancers enter.

Narrator 2/ Chloe

The Northern lights have been around longer than we have.

Some consider them to be the spirits of our ancestors, guiding us on our journey.

Drumdancers perform.

Narrator 2/ Chloe

They remind us of the awe-inspiring power of nature.

The atsanet motivate us to be creative

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Their beauty influences artists and photographers.

No matter how many times you've seen them dancing in the sky,
they never fail to amaze you with their dazzling light show.

Lights fade on drumdancers. (All dancers exit, but one.)
Lights up on one actor who prepares to light a kudlik.

Light on narrator.

Narrator 3/ Dione

For thousands of years, Inuit have used the kullik as a source of light and heat.

We illuminated and warmed our igloos, sod houses and tents with these seal oil lamps.

The kullik is a symbol of our strength and ingenuity.

Today that light is mainly ceremonial, but when we light the kullik we know it is a special, important occasion.

To be invited to light the kullik is an honour, illuminating our culture and our respect for the past.

Lights out on kullik scene and narrator.

Lights up on cabin scene, as actors mime lighting the lantern/kerosene lamp.

Narrator 4/ Novalee

Nothing is more heartwarming or welcoming than that glow of the lamp at the cabin.

Far away from the stress and busyness of everyday life, we cling to the old ways at the cabin.

We can reconnect with nature and embrace the simplicity.

It's such a peaceful, rejuvenating time.

We might sit and play cards, or read, or sew, or just listen to stories told in the lantern light.

In the woods, in the pitch black night, the lamp light gives us comfort.

Lights dim on cabin scene and narrator.

Lights up on Christmas scene. Actors set up Christmas tree and decorate it.

Narrator 5/ Jimmy

As Moravian Inuit, our Christmas traditions are strong.

Families and the whole community come together to celebrate the holidays.

There's no light as magical as the lights of Christmas.

Today we decorate our trees with lights but our ancestors actually put candles on the trees. Those flickering flames represented our faith.

Most homes also hang a Moravian star at the beginning of Advent. That light remains for the whole Christmas season.

Actors put "candles" on the tree. Actor sets up the Moravian star.

Narrator 5/Jimmy

Perhaps the most anticipated event of the year is the Candlelight service.

Actors mime service. One carries a tray of apples and candles and hands them out to the children.

Narrator 5/Jimmy

All of the children under 15 will receive an apple and candle. This symbolizes Jesus lighting up the world.

Actors hold lighted candles and sing Sorutsit.

Narrator 5/ Jimmy

New Year's Eve is another celebration of light,
but as exciting as fireworks and sparklers might be,
most of us look to the hills around Nain, searching for candles in the snow.

Actors mime placing candles in the snow.

Narrator 5/Jimmy

Often families will place a candle in memory of lost loved ones.

As a community we celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of a new one,
bringing new hope.

All narrators/actors come out on stage, centre.

Narrator 1/Samantha : Even in darkness, we can find the light.

Narrator 2/Chloe: Our culture illuminates us. We will shine brighter when we remember that.

Narrator 3/Dione: Life will bring challenges and we might feel like we're in the dark.

Narrator 4/Novalee: But we need to remember that there is kindness, compassion and love.

Narrator 5/Jimmy: Our strength comes from our resilience.

Narrator 1/Samantha: Working together and communicating will help us through the darkness.
We need to recognize and appreciate the positivity that surrounds us.

All: We are the light. Our flame will never burn out.

Actors/narrators hold apples and candles and sing "This Little Light of Mine".